Reviews and Bibliographical Notices.

Lectures on the Diagnosis of Diseases of the Brain. By W. R. GOWERS., M.D. Pp. 246. London and Philadelphia, 1885.

Every one who has ever read the author's previous work on the spinal cord, can easily believe that the present work was written in response to a request for a similar work on the brain. The author has succeeded in giving us a work equally concise and clear, and has done much toward making the most difficult subject in medicine comprehensible to the student. Like the previous work, it is merely a manual of diagnosis, and his chapters on anatomy and pathology are properly subservient to that end. The book is divided into eighteen chapters, retaining the form of lectures, as originally delivered at University College Hospital.

As an essential preliminary to diagnosis, the first three chapters are devoted to a brief description of the anatomy and functions of the brain and cranial nerves. The work of condensing and arranging the many observations upon the course of the brain fibres has been well done, the statements as to our present knowledge are clear, and the many doubtful hypotheses are so stated as not to confuse the learner, but yet to set before him the most approved theories upon the questions at issue. The author, partly from certain observations of his own, takes occasion to oppose the old theory that the palate and the back of the tongue derive their nerves of taste from the glosso-pharyngeal, and maintains that these parts, like the front of the tongue, get their nerve supply from the fifth pair, perhaps from branches from the otic ganglion, through the small petrosal and the tympanic plexus which are distributed with the fibres of the glosso-pharyngeal. The anatomical portion of the work is illustrated by a dozen wood-cuts, chiefly diagrammatic, which are easily comprehended and do not confuse the reader by a multiplicity of details. We must except the first diagram from this praise, for we have seldom seen any thing more misleading than its representations of the convolutions. The author assumes a knowledge of the subject, and refers the reader to the diagram in question. We do not demand minute detail in a manual like this, and we have long since become hardened to variations from

the ordinarily accepted nomenclature, such as occur in both diagrams of the cortex, but we must protest against the false relations of the supra-marginal and angular gyri as here given, and at the implication that the temporal lobe has externally but two convolutions, of which what we know as the second is styled the inferior, while the third is entirely neglected.

The next nine lectures are devoted to symptomatology, taking up in succession hemiplegia, convulsions, disorders of special senses, cranial-nerve symptoms, mental symptoms, disturbances of speech, general disturbances, and ophthalmoscopic changes. The account of the various symptoms is, as a rule, trustworthy, succinct, and fully up to our present knowledge, and every chapter is full of useful suggestions for examination or diagnosis which are not without value even to the specialist. With a hemiplegia on the same side as the lesion, however, we prefer to accept Wernicke's theory, that the lesion, if it be a tumor, may exert pressure on the opposite crus cerebri, or even Morgagni's old theory of a failure of decussation of the pyramids, than to adopt the author's hypothesis of an undiscoverable lesion in the opposite hemisphere. There seems to be a useful distinction, too, between paresis and paralysis, which the author is not inclined to admit. As was to be expected, his treatment of ocular symptoms is well done. Rejecting von Graefe's old theory of pressure, and, to some degree, Schwalbe's idea of distension of the optic sheath, he attributes optic neuritis to a variety of causes, chiefly to an irritative process conducted along the nerve. He also calls attention to the distinction between the fields of vision in beginning neuritis and tobacco amblyopia, which we had previously found of value in a case under our own observation. His chapter on oculo-motor paralysis, as well as that on aphasia, which follows Hughlings Jackson quite closely, has the unusual merit of leaving the subject less obscure than it was before reading it. He casts great doubt on the possibility of an affection of the soft palate in paralysis of the facial nerve, affirming that he has sought for it in vain for fifteen years. Those who still cling to the once popular theory of cerebral hyperæmia, and rejoice in making the diagnosis of "congestion of the base of the brain," will find little to please them in his statement that such a diagnosis, as commonly made, has not the "slightest justification," and they will find cold comfort in his remarks upon "those physicians who find it profitable to pander to the morbid tendencies" which some neurotic patients have of dwelling upon certain sensations and imagining that they are definite affections.

The two lectures which follow take up the question of localization of disease, and, of course, repeat much of what has preceded; viewing the symptoms, however, from a different standpoint. The same praise is due here as in the other chapters; the various facts and theories are stated briefly, clearly, and accurately, and are in accord with the latest work on the subject.

The remaining lectures are devoted to pathology and pathological diagnosis. In his chapter on the pathological changes, he dif-

fers from the recent writers on cerebral disease in laying greater stress upon *venous*—not sinus—thrombosis as a cause of sudden disease of the brain in children, and supports his theory by cases from his own observation. In his diagnosis of the lesions he divides them into sudden, coming on in a few minutes or a few hours; acute, coming on in a few days or a few weeks; and chronic, coming on in a month or more. Under the first head, he puts the vascular changes; under the second, inflammations; and under the third, chronic inflammations, new growths, and degenerative diseases like bulbar paralysis, multiple sclerosis, and general paralysis of the insane. His statements, as a rule, are clear and judicious, but one or two of them are misleading. "Coarse jerking" is hardly an appropriate term for the typical rhythmical tremor of multiple sclerosis; nor is it true that "headache is absent in the purely degenerative diseases." In general paralysis, at least in the type of the disease most frequently seen at the present day, a moderate headache is a very frequent symptom, and the first symptom in some cases, as in a man at present under our observation, may be a most intense and persistent headache lasting for weeks. In some cases of hysterical hemiplegia, too, the physician might be misled by the statement that "the skin-reflexes are not lessened on the affected side; the knee-jerks are equal." Charcot, Weir Mitchell, and others, have noted a variation in the knee-jerk on the two sides in many cases of hysterical hemiplegia, and we have ourselves noted its variation in two cases, combind with hemianæsthesia, in one of which the plantar, gluteal, and scapular reflexes, too, were absent on the affected side.

In spite of the few errors mentioned, which we hope to see corrected in a new edition, the book remains a clear and admirable manual in diagnosis, a fitting companion to the author's previous work on the cord, and by far the best work on diseases of the brain that we know in English.

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Zehn Vorlesungen über den Bau der Nervösen Centralorgane. Von Dr. LUDWIG EDINGER. Mit 120 Abbildungen, S. 138. Leipzig: F. C. W. Vogel, 1885. 6 marks. Ten Lectures on the Structure of the Central Nervous System.

Dr. Edinger is well known to those who are familiar with the German neurological school, as an investigator who has made valuable contributions to the subject of the microscopic anatomy of the brain. Under the direction of Flechsig he has given much time to the study of the development of the brain, and we owe to him the knowledge of the order of formation of the fibres in the corpus striatum.

Being thoroughly familiar with the subject of brain anatomy in its latest developments along the lines of embryology, comparative anatomy, and pathology, he was well qualified to present a summary of recent investigations to the profession in Frankfort-on-the-Main. These lectures were delivered last winter before a